

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated February 7, 2006, Applicants have responded to the Examiner's rejection of the claims below. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14 and 21 have been amended. Claims 2-5, 8-10 and 15-20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 7, 11-14 and 21 are pending in the application.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application at an early date is respectfully requested.

In Paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure because it exceeded the word limit. The Applicants have amended the Abstract of the Disclosure so that it does not exceed 150 words in length.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 21 in Paragraph 5 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by De Pous et al. (US 5,398,830). De Pous discloses a closure system for a receptacle 1 having a neck 4 in which an opening 10 is formed and provided with outwardly projecting external threads 5 each extending between a first end 5a further from the opening and a second end 5b closer to the opening 10 and a cap 2 having a side wall 2a that surrounds the neck 4 and that fits snugly over the shape of the external threads 5 thereof. The cap 2 is made of a material that is elastically deformable, and at least some of the threads 5 of the neck 4 are spaced apart in pairs by a circumferential distance d around the neck 4 that decreases progressively between the first and second ends 5a, 5b of the threads 5. In order to mount the cap on the neck 4 of the receptacle, the cap 2 is forced onto the neck 4 and is then screwed while applying force, using mechanical means. The forced screwing serves to tap the ribs 11 by causing them to be crushed by the threads 5, as shown in Figure 4. The ribs 11 extend axially from the end wall 2b to the narrow end 4a of the threads 5.

Thus, in De Pous, the threads 5, 6 and 7 are wedge-shaped ones, and the cap has the ribs 11 extending axially from the end wall 2b to the narrow end 4a of the threads 5, i.e. the ribs 11 merely extend from the end wall 2b and have no configuration of threads before engaging with the threads. The ribs 11 are elastically deformed by the threads 5, 6 and 7 so as to generate a function of threads. That is, the ribs 11 are not threads and have no lead angle as in general threads. Therefore, the Examiner's comments on the paragraph 5 of the Office Action are unreasonable with respect to a lead angle of threads.

Further, the threads 5, 6 and 7 are made wedge-shaped so as to facilitate penetration of those threads into the ribs 11. Then, the threads 6 and 7 in pair provide the same function as that of the wedge-shaped threads 5. Thus, each of the threads 6 and 7 do not solely function as a thread, so that the threads 6 and 7 are different from the threads of a female screw according to the present invention.

Accordingly, the engaging of the ribs 11 and the wedge-shaped threads in De Pous is very different from that of the female threads and male threads according to the present invention since the idea of a different lead angle in the male threads cannot be taken into consideration.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 21 as amended, and the claims that are dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by De Pous.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 21 in Paragraph 7 of the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. (JP 53-025849). Takeuchi discloses the screw structure of a can body 1 and a lid 1 threaded thereto, in which a thread portion 1' of the can body 1 is constructed by few projection rows independently provided on an outer periphery thereof and further oblique to an axis of the can body and directed in the same direction with even spaces, while a thread portion 2' of the lid body 2 is formed by embossment of an inner side of the lid body and as the projection rows 3 of the same structure as that of the can body 1. This can body comprises the can body, a cylindrical lid and a thread portion for threading the lid to the can. The thread portion 2' of the cylindrical lid 2 as shown in Figure 2 is formed as a few projection rows 4 that are perpendicular to the axis of the cylindrical lid 2 and have a length that is shorter than a space between the projection rows 3 of the can body 1 so as to locate them on the same circumferential line of its inner periphery. The engagement of both of the projection rows 3 and 4 is finally performed as shown in Figure 3. The cylindrical lid 2 is placed on the can body 1, and then the projection rows 3 and 4 of the thread portions are engaged with each other, when the cylindrical lid 2 is rotated in this state, the projection rows 4 go into a space L of the projection rows 3 and are further rotated to engage the projection rows 3 with lower sides of the projection rows 4.

The fastening device of the present invention comprises a first component member such as a lid and a second component member such as a cylindrical receptacle. An even number of threads are included on the second component member that have a lead angle that is different from that of the other threads. When the threads of the second component member are frictionally engaged with the threads of the female screw of the first component member, the threads are elastically deformed by the frictional engagement.

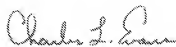
Thus, Takeuchi is different from the present invention in the structure of the receptacle which is a can formed of material such as metal in light of the threads being formed by embossment and the threads having the same lead angle in each of the can body and the lid.

For all of the above reasons, Takeuchi fails to teach or suggest all of the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 21 as amended, and the claims that are dependent therefrom, as required by 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing or application fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present amendment, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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